



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

over the old or wooden one, but both can be kept in perfect order with a medium amount of attention, provided this be given regularly. Beds harbor dust more than one realizes, as can be seen by lifting the laths under the mattress. In the case of wooden bedsteads, these little nests and every corner should be dusted with a brush at intervals, and the brush should be extended to the mattress, which harbors dirt along the edges, especially wherever a button is fixed. The tops of the mattresses also, particularly along the buttons, usually have a considerable collection of dust. A loose cotton cover over the mattress, made to button at one end, goes a great way toward keeping it clean. This can be washed and changed as often as needs be without much trouble. Happily the feather bed is almost a thing of the past. Our grandmothers, who mostly used feather beds, used to remake them at very regular intervals, the ladies of the family, with their heads tied up, themselves directing the operation. In French and Swiss villages the combing of flock and horsehair and the picking and airing of feathers is a very familiar sight. If the mattress or feather bed only needs freshening, the operation can be done at home. Unpick the ticking, remove the flock or feathers, pick them all over thoroughly and expose them for twenty-four hours at least to the sun and the air. In cases of infection the articles should be sent to some well-known public disinfectory, where everything is baked in large ovens arranged expressly. It is very important to air all the bedding thoroughly—that is to say, to turn it out bodily into the open air. If this is impossible, the mattresses of beds should be placed on the floor near an open window if possible, on a sunny day, and this apparently trifling point cannot be too highly recommended. If this process is regularly carried out at certain intervals, the caring of bedding will not really imply more trouble than the dusting of a room, with an occasional turn-out.

Blankets are a difficulty to many people, mostly because they cannot make up their minds as to how often they should be washed, nor how they should be treated. In many houses they are only washed once a year, at the inevitable spring cleaning, but somehow it does not seem rather too rare a proceeding. On the other hand, it is really not necessary to have them washed more than twice a year, but they must have proper care in the interval in the shape of airing, shaking, etc. If washed at home they can be got up to perfection, whereas by sending them out there is always the risk of shrinking. A washing machine is very good for this purpose, especially as they should never be rubbed by the hand; in fact, when there is no machine, and housewives care for the well-being of their goods, they are always treated with what is commonly called a "dolly." This is a well-known contrivance, by means of which the blanket is well shaken and worked about in the tub, so that it is thoroughly cleansed without being touched with the hands. The water should only be lukewarm, and no soda must be used—a little washing powder or pure soap well lathered in the water is all that will be required. Wring the blankets very dry through a wringer, shake them out, and wash again in the same way, wringing each time until they are quite clean. Do not rinse them, but pull them into shape and hang them out in the sun, which is a great help to preserving a good color. New blankets especially should be treated exactly according to these instructions; when the material is older there is no longer so much danger of shrinking.

Obviously, all curtains, hangings, valances, etc., harbor dust; a fact, however, which need not prevent even the most careful people from having them. It is merely a matter of taste. Of course, washing materials are more to be advocated than serges, woolen stuffs, etc., that will not wash, for the dust that clings to such materials must inevitably take away from the perfect wholesomeness of the room. The nearest way to put up valances is to run them onto a narrow wooden lath, fixed or merely laid on the bedstead itself under the pailasse. The old-fashioned heavy counterpanes, which seemed essential to every householder's happiness, are going out of use, chiefly, perhaps, because they are so difficult to keep clean, troublesome to wash at home (unless there is a great deal of space), and very soon ruined by the average laundress, who does not forget to charge heavily for "getting them up." For taking abroad they are, of course, next to impossible on account of their weight; the thinner honeycomb pattern is preferable, and for those who

are not wedded to the traditional "counterpane," a pretty bed-spread to match the appointments of the room always looks dainty and pleasant.

Finally, one of the best preparations with which to clean the ironwork of bedsteads is benzine collas; it never corrodes, and the smell evaporates very quickly; it is also the best preventive against vermin, which sometimes appear in the most unexpected manner. If any such unwelcome visitors should make their appearance in wooden frames, they are more difficult to treat, on account of the chinks in the wood; nitric acid, however, soon disposes of the most obstinate cases. It is, perhaps, almost superfluous to give these remedies, and it is to be hoped that they may rarely have to be called into requisition. Benzine collas is a splendid cleansing substance for iron, and that is the principal thing to bear in mind. When, however, this may be considered too expensive, pure paraffin is a most efficient substitute, though it requires a good deal of airing to obviate its unpleasant smell, which is the great objection to its general use.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

HOW to apply gold to china so as to be satisfactory after it is fired is a sense of feeling more than anything else, as, being so dark and so thick a substance, it is almost impossible to know how much you have used. Firing brings out all defective handling, and makes every mistake more pronounced. Therefore, do not take careless work to the firer and expect it to "come out all right," and blame the firer for your own mistakes.

BAMBOO and bead portieres, which are so very pleasant for summer use, are very attractive this season. As a rule they are three yards in length, although shorter ones are not uncommon. They are inexpensive when the design is not very elaborate. Some of the more recent ones are made up entirely of beads, pale blue and white, pale pink and amber and other combinations of much beauty. The patterns are sometimes floral, as, for instance, large leaves and flowers of iridescent white beads on a blue ground, or shades and weaves of green or pink on a white ground. The cost of each is \$5. When the floral or figure effects are more elaborate they amount up to \$9.75. Plain bead portieres in solid colors are sold for the same price. When mixed with bamboo these portieres are lower in price, very pretty ones, with bird and flower designs, costing no more than \$5. Still cheaper are the all-bamboo portieres. In natural bamboo they cost \$1.50 for the largest size; in all colors, with floral and bird designs, they are sold for \$3.50; in plain dark green for \$2, and in mottled bamboo for \$1.50.

JAPANESE porcelain very closely resembles Chinese ware; so closely, indeed, that very frequently only the practiced eye can detect the difference. The Japanese undoubtedly obtained their knowledge of art from China, and succeeded in producing a ware which is superior to the Chinese both in the quality of their paste and the brilliancy of their white. Another difference is in the method of ornamentation and its close adherence to nature. The ware known as "Old Satsuma" was made in the province of Satsuma, in the most southern of the three islands composing the empire of Japan, by Korean potters. The porcelains of Ritsa, Hizen, Kouteni and Imari differ from those of China only in a still greater variety of forms and decorations. The oldest kind of Japanese ware was of quaint shape painted on a white ground in red and blue. The most perfect production is a fine vitreous porcelain, the paste of which is prepared with extreme labor. It is so white and thin as to be perfectly translucent, and the glaze is so equal and clear and so colorless that one can scarcely believe it to be the work of the potter. The Japanese themselves value more highly the intrinsic merit and beauty of their unobtrusive glazes than the decorative pottery known to the Western people under the name of Kioto, Kaga and Satsuma. There are the rich brown of the Seto glaze, the deep gray of the Karatsu, and the ripe and varied autumnal browns in the tea jars of Omo and Iga, and the delicious fawns and buffs of Takatori, which must be studied to be appreciated. The most notable productions of Japan at the present day are vases of stoneware and faience, their lacquered porcelains of modern varieties, and the skillfulness of the Japanese are given full play.